

NEWSLETTER

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NO: 24

2ND QUARTER

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COVER: Working drawings for Crustaceans case in Born of the Sea. See article below.

BORN OF THE SEA

After months of collecting, preparation, model-making and mounting, our new natural history exhibition, Born of the Sea is open. Starting with a brief account of the study of natural history in Barbados, the exhibition journeys "from the Sea"....to the land" in a trip highlighted by intricately drawn historical prints, contemporary illustrations, fine natural specimens and artificially crafted environments.

In the marine section, corals, molluscs (shell fish), crustaceans (crabs, lobsters etc), echinoderms (sea stars, urchins etc) and fish are used to illustrate the abundance and diversity of animal life. Their similarities and differences show us how, for man's purposes, they are classified as distinct zoological groups. Coral reefs and sea grass beds are featured as the most productive marine ecosystems.

Life between the sea and the land is captured in our mangrove and beach dioramas. Communities such as the mangrove forest, which in Barbados now survives in only one location, highlight the very real environmental conservation issues facing us today. Throughout the exhibition, the fragility of our natural resources and the need for their protection is stressed.

The floral cover of our island has changed much since 1627. The island's original forest and especially our endemic plants are displayed in the exhibition's terrestrial section.

Born of the Sea was officially opened on 11th June by Mrs. Mazie Barker-Welch, acting on behalf of the Minister with responsibility for the environment, the Hon. Keith Simmons. Coming as it did at the end of National Environment Week, the Minister recognised the exhibition as a significant step in improving the environmental education tools available to both Barbadians and visitors.

The opening was also marked by a fundraising Wine and Cheese evening organized by Volunteers.

We look forward to your visit to this fine new exhibit.

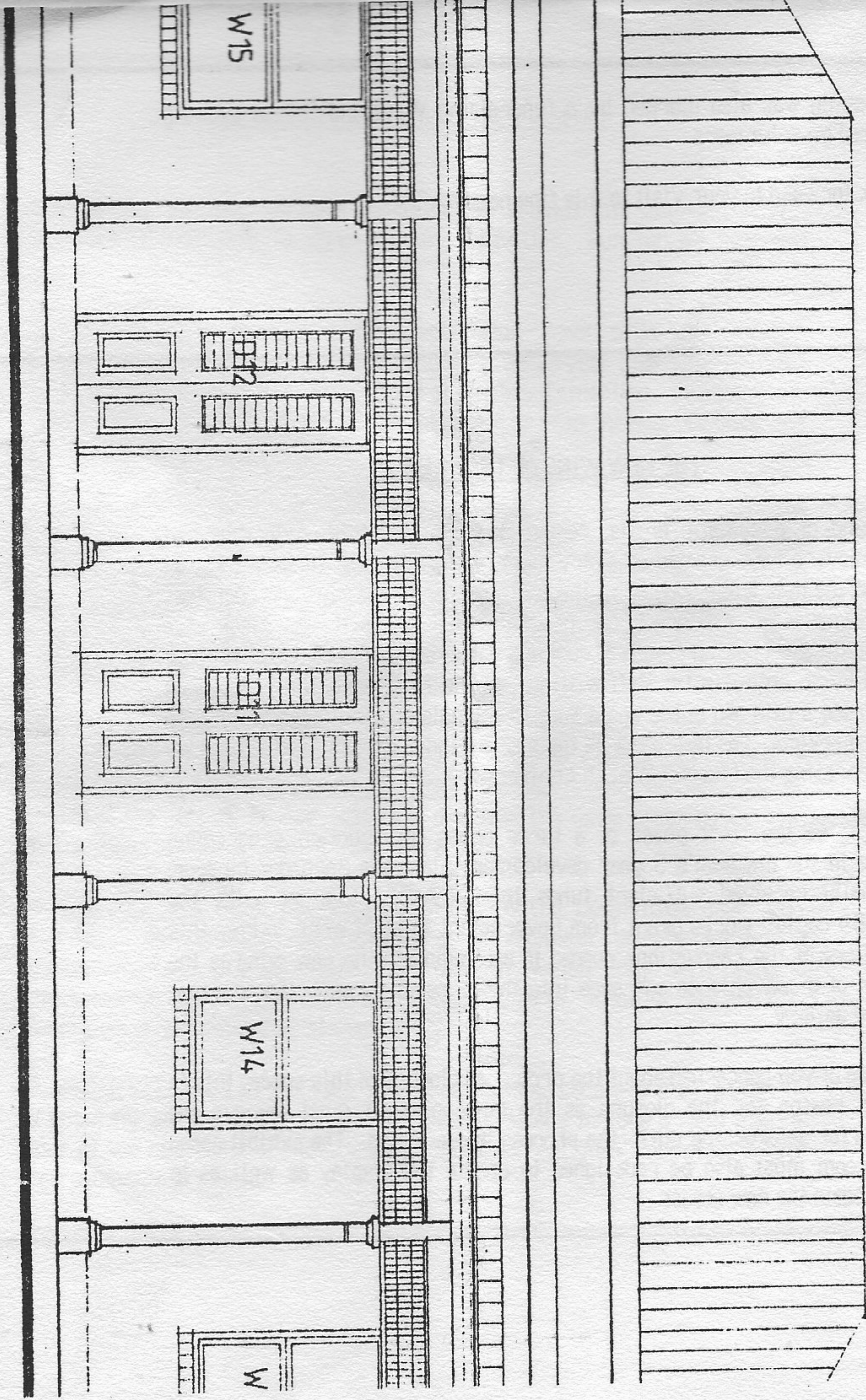
THE NEW WING OF THE MUSEUM

The sound of pneumatic drills, cement mixers, off-loading lorries and earth-movers have greeted us every morning for the past three weeks, as work on the new wing, located in the south garden of the museum complex, has got underway. Visitors to our present offices in No. 11 Garrison have suffered throat-choking clouds of dust and voice-drowning noises only to be greeted by an enthusiastic staff willing, at the first opportunity, to drag them to see a pile of rubble and a small rectangle of earth pegged out with wooden markers. The new block is the best birthday present with which we are celebrating the Museum's 55th Anniversary.

Envisaged as the first phase of a three phase construction programme outlined in the museum's 5 year development plan, the Barbados Museum had finally received sufficient funds in 1987-88, together with the 1988-89 capital works grant from Government to start work in May this year. Part of the renovations needed to accommodate the new wing is the creation of a convenience entrance into the museum through the present military gallery.

For those of you concerned about the prolonged closure of this space, this is a major reason for the closure as the museum staff must remove the artifacts for safekeeping until the process is completed. The exhibit cases in the room must also be redesigned to update the display as well as to accommodate the new access.

WEST ELEVATION



This new wing will accommodate the combined curatorial and administrative offices of the museum, increasing the efficiency of these functions simply by affording better communications between what have been essentially two units physically separated because of a chronic lack of space in the museum complex. It also offers considerably more security than is at present enjoyed by either office because of easy accessibility to the visiting public. The move to the new wing scheduled for the beginning of the new year will make available much needed space in the present office.

Already each of the curators has developed a master plan claiming a portion of the space, for, among other things, more artifact storage, exhibit design studio, slide library, conservation laboratory, education, training and volunteer programmes. As you can see we still have a long way to go, but the new wing will help to alleviate some of the restrictions which have held us back from functioning as effectively for the public as we would wish. The new wing heralds a new era at the Barbados Museum in keeping with our objective: to be the best in the Caribbean.

OF PEARLS AND SWINE

A singularly sad and mindless piece of vandalism has come to light in a recent visit to the Springhead petroglyphs.

The petroglyphs, discovered by Ole Sorensen (of Harrison Cave fame), are the only Amerindian petroglyphs that have been found in Barbados. The accompanying sketches show what our photographer found. This fragile and irreplaceable evidence of our First People has been scrawled and graffitied by recent visitors.

J.H., whoever and wherever you are, did you really need this kind of immortality? How pathetic.

Petroglyphs before and after vandalism



ON VIEW: Temporary Exhibits in the Gallery

Hearts, Diamonds and Flowers was the theme of a joint exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Alison and Stanley Greaves during March.

Using leaves as a theme, Alison used techniques and treatment quite different from her familiar landscapes.

Stanley's ceramics pieces were favourites for his fans and collectors, some of whom came from Guyana for the opening.

Children's Gallery

Children's Gallery

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Bajan Intuitives

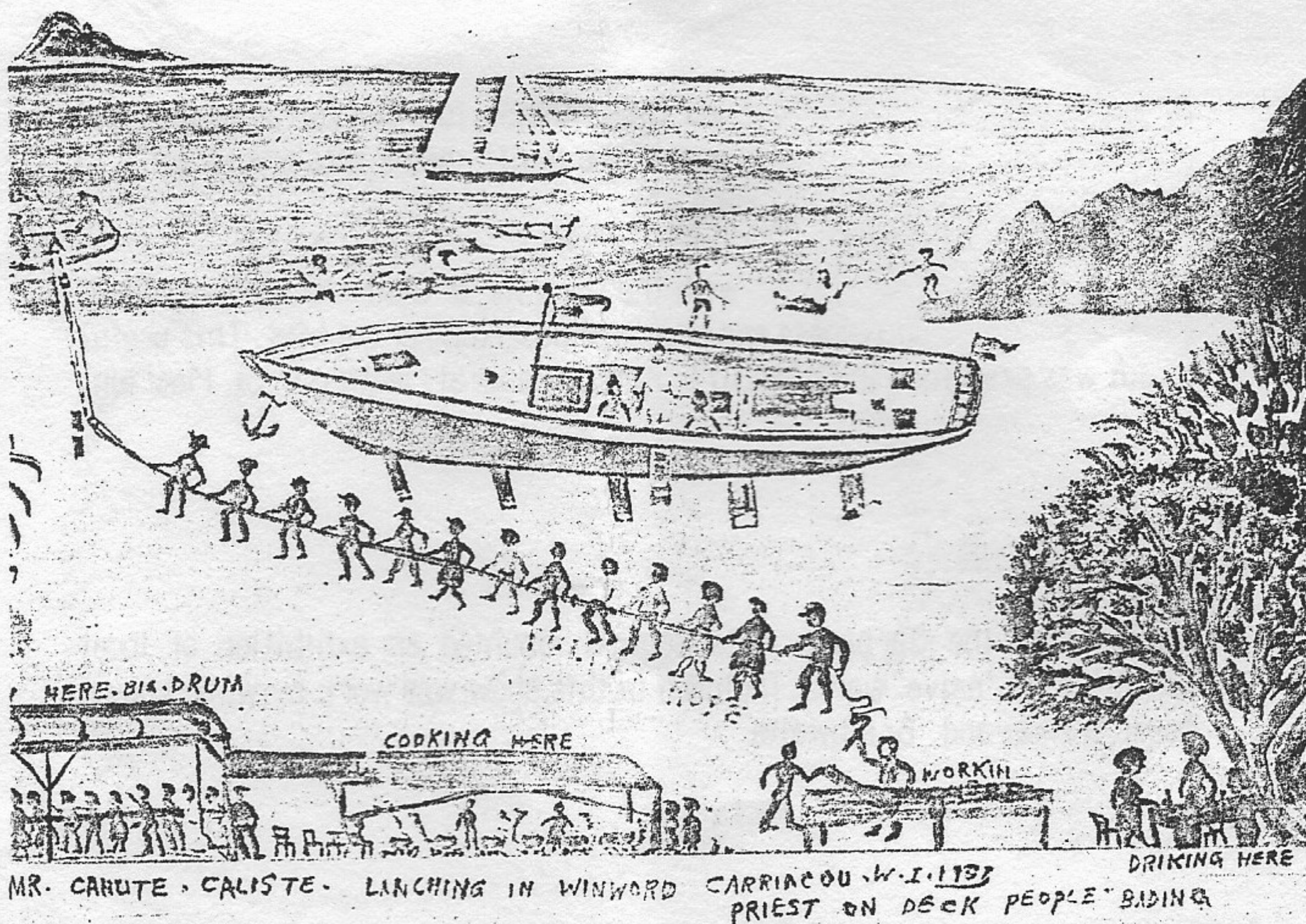
During May the Barbados Arts Council mounted an exhibition of local 'intuitive' or 'naive' work. Included in this show was work by well-known Oscar Walkes and Brathwaite.

Canute's World

The April exhibition of "naive" paintings by Canute Caliste of Carriacou provided viewers with insight into community life and the folkways of Carriacou. Weddings, wakes, traditional dances, boat launching and whaling scenes are but a few of the subjects Caliste colourfully and wittily documents in his work.

A fisherman by trade, Caliste, who is 70-odd years old, paints prolifically, plays the violin in a quadrille band and still has time to build boats.

The exhibition aroused much interest and curiosity from viewers, perhaps because most people tend to identify a 'naive' style with Haiti only.



Newcomers '88

The overwhelming participation of over 120 amateur artists brought a gala turnout to the opening of this show.

Indrani Whittingham is the dedicated and tireless teacher who coordinates this annual event for the wide range of people who attend her private art classes.

The show is on till the end of June.

MUSEUM GUIDE TRAINING

Do you enjoy combining your cultural interests with your social instincts?

Would you enjoy training as a tour guide?

No background qualifications are necessary, beyond an interest in Barbadian history and culture, and an enjoyment of working with people.

Tour guides will be expected to attend all the initial training sessions as well as refresher sessions 2 or 3 times a year. Once trained, they will be expected to give one tour a week during times of heavy visitation.

This program is different from the Docent program, in which teaching volunteers give classes to visiting school children. There are a few places available for Docent trainees in September as well.

If you are interested please phone the Education Officer (427-0201) or Angela and leave your name and number; we will contact you in early September.

MUSEUM MEMBER PROFILE

Please take the time to fill in the questionnaire below and return it to us. We are trying to develop a museum member profile so we can more accurately gauge the needs and interests of our friends and members. Please circle the option that applies.

1. Are you a member?

Y N

Male ☐ Female ☐

Under 25 _____ 45-65 _____

25-45 _____ Over 65 _____

2. Have you visited the museum within the last year ?

Y N

Have you visited because of any special exhibitions in the past year?

3. Have you attended an annual general meeting within the last 2 years?

Y N

4. Have you attended any lectures within the last year ?

Y N

5. Have you or family participated in summer, weekend, archaeological or travel programs in the last year?

Y N

6. Have you ever had a guided tour of the museum?
If regular guided tours were available would you take advantage of them?

Y N

7. The Museum Shop stocks stationery, books and gifts items related to the museum. Have you visited it in the last year?

Y N

Are there items you would like to see stocked?

8. Have you noticed the museum or its functions advertised during the last year? If so, where?

T.V. _____ Newspaper _____ Other _____

Radio _____ Word of mouth _____

9. We try to invite each member to a museum function at least once a year. Were you invited?

Y N

If so, did you attend?

Y N

10. Have you used the Library?

Y N

Area of research _____

11. Have you used the Cafe?

Y N

Comments _____

12. Are there other programs or activities you would like to see at the Museum?

13. Would you like to comment on any museum exhibitions?

CULTURAL TOUR TO PUERTO RICO

As this is being written, the Director and museum members are enjoying the Museum's 2nd cultural tour in Puerto Rico.

The five-day tour, publicized in our last Newsletter, includes access to the Pablo Casals Festival, the historic sites and galleries of Old San Juan, and museums/cultural centres "out on the island"

The 1987 trip to Haiti was a roaring success, so it seems that regional museum tours will become part of the annual agenda.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FOR CARIBBEAN ARCHAEOLOGY

The XI International Congress for Caribbean Archaeology will be held in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles from July 23-29, 1989. The preliminary symposia topics include:

- . Methodology and Theoretical context of Archaeological Research
- . Interaction, Adaption and Population Movement..
- . Prehistoric Technologies
- . Pre-ceramic Age in the Caribbea
- . Ceramic Age in the Caribbean
- . Proto-historic and Ethno-historical Research
- . Petroglyphs and Rock Drawings
- . Physical Anthropology and Human Remains
- . Underwater Archaeology
- . General Historical Archaeology
- . Spanish Caribbean Historical Archaeology

The meeting will be held in the Conference and auditorium of the sophisticated new International Trade Centre Curacao. Seminar sessions will be held from Monday 24th to Saturday 28th with an optional field trip/island tour on Sunday 29th July. For further details of registration etc contact Alissandra Cummins, Director at 427-0201.

STAFF NOTES

This month we say goodbye to Museum Administrator Mr. Bill Fraser, who is retiring to join his daughter in Canada. Mr. Fraser is the museum's most long-standing employee, and has seen many changes in his seven years here. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

We are also losing our genial entertainment manager, David Clarke. David has been associated with the museum since he was a teenaged volunteer. He has for years been a Duke of Edinburgh stalwart, a moving spirit behind the National Trust walks, and a National Trust board member. In his 'spare' time (does he sleep?) he has done the museum's photography on a volunteer basis and earned his Karate Black Belt. Following his recent travels with Duke of Edinburgh administrators to Australia and points east, he is taking up the newly established position of Regional Co-ordinator for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. We feel we're saying "au revoir" and not "adieu".

And we cannot conclude without expressing appreciation to David King, who joined us on a temporary basis for the stress-filled month preceding the opening of the Natural History exhibit. David, a freelance man-of-all-construction-skills, worked efficiently, creatively and indefatigably. His competence and common sense were valuable resources as work days stretched to 12 and 14 hours and tempers stretched thin. Thanks, David.

MUSEUM SHOP

The Museum Shop, always a pleasant place to browse, is expanding its book section by offering a range of good West Indian fiction. The initial selections, which should arrive in July, will include a number of the classics of the region. In addition, a focus on several Barbadian writers will complement the cultural vision presented by the museum itself. Several books suitable for children and young people are highlighted. While some of the novels are not specifically written for children, their lively plots and vivid characterization make them an appealing introduction to Caribbean literature for adolescents or adults.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONFERENCES

PUBLISHING SEMINAR

Education Officer Wendy Donawa attended the ISER/IDRC Seminar of "Scholarly Publishing in the English Speaking Caribbean: Constraints and Prospects"

The seminar (April 19-22) was attended by writers, academics, librarians and booksellers from across the region.

Why did the museum attend? Well, contact with regional cultural networks is always stimulating and often productive. We share with the other participants the problems inherent in marketing a small, cost-heavy, high-quality product.

Moreover, we hope eventually to publish ongoing museum research. Seminars like this develop marketing skills appropriate to our needs. One outcome is the expansion of the museum shop's bookline described above.

REGIONAL SEMINAR/WORKSHOP FOR MUSEUM ADMINISTRATORS

Director Alissandra Cummins, with Dave Robinson from Nevis, and Louis Gorr, provided by the Smithsonian Institute, acted as resource persons throughout the recent (May 16-18) Regional Seminar Workshop for Museum Administrators

With the establishment of MAC (Museum Association of the Caribbean) the workshop brought to fruition the planning of the CCA Museum Working Group reported in Newsletter 22.

Delegates from 7 Caribbean countries attended, and squeezed a great deal of work into three days. Mutual interests and problems in such areas as Museum management, small museum development, fundraising, training and museum education highlighted the need for networking and regional co-operation.

As the final day was also International Museum Day, participants finished early enough to enjoy the end of our museum's open day with drinks, and joined both the Barbados National Trust and Museum Staff in a celebration of our heritage.

ACURIL CONFERENCE

Librarian Betty Carillo-Shannon represented the museum at the ACURIL conference held in Martinique May 14-20. ACURIL (Association of Caribbean University Research and Institutional Libraries) is a co-operative Caribbean movement embracing libraries, archives and organisations conducting archival education programs.

The conference included 216 participants from the Caribbean region, as well as from Europe and North & South America. Work sessions dealt with the many aspects of information technology and its implications for libraries; exhibitions and demonstrations of information technology were also available. All promoted the ACURIL aims of promoting and exchanging studies of topical issues in the profession, and facilitating improved communications.

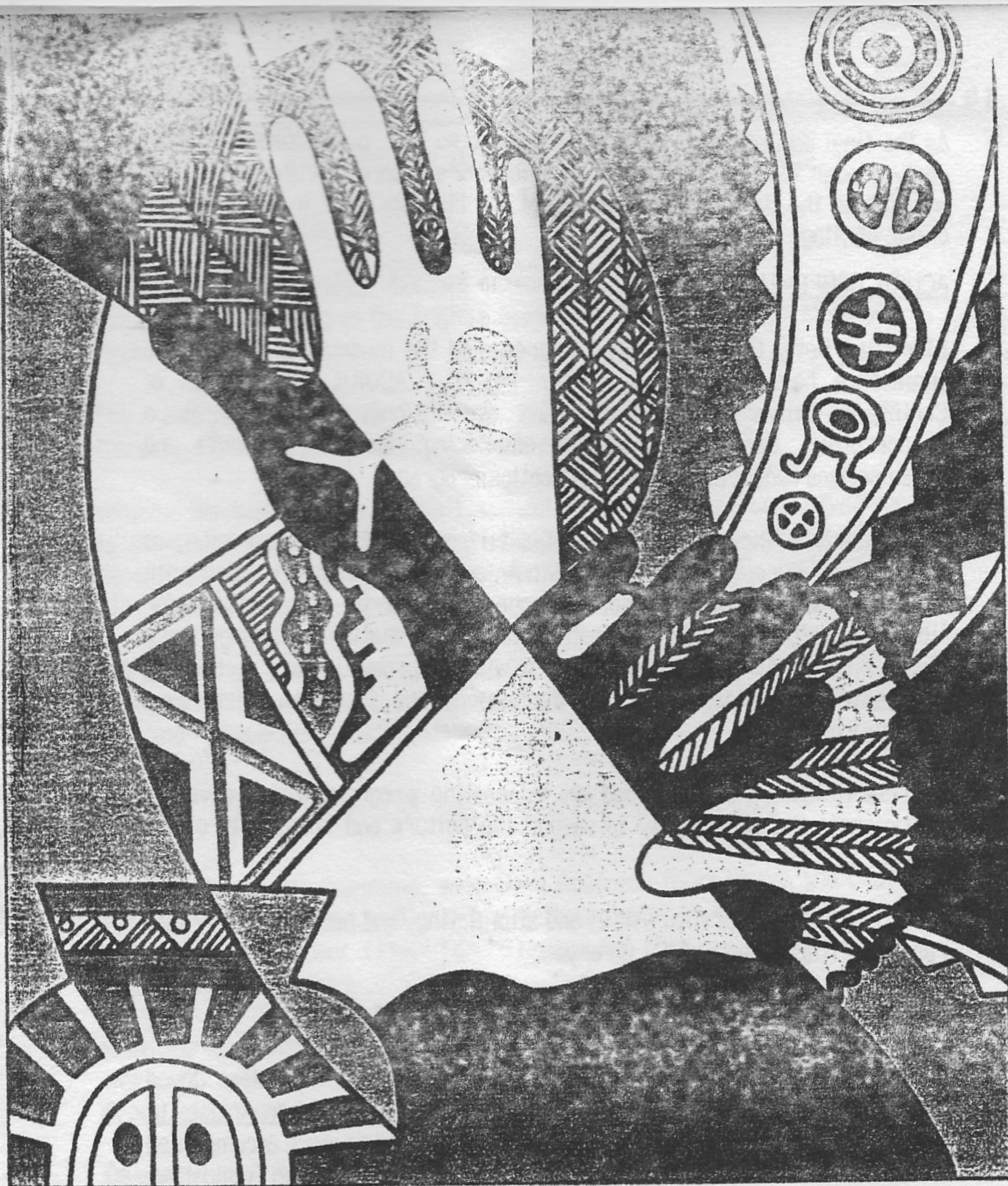
The Martiniquan hosts planned an interesting program which gave all participants the opportunity to savour the culture and hospitality of the island.

Betty found the conference useful and stimulating, and has added many new research titles to the BMHS Library.

GUYANA RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION OF WOMEN'S ART

On April 7, Education Officer Wendy Donawa and Museum Volunteer Joyce Gale flew to Georgetown for the opening of 60 years of Women Artists in Guyana, 1928-1988: A Historical Perspective. They were accompanied by Nan Peacock of WAND and Alison Greaves of the Art Collection Foundation.

Having worked on Golde White's Retrospective for the Barbados Museum, this exhibition gave Joyce the opportunity to see the work Golde had pioneered in Guyana, and the subsequent growth of the art movement. For



Artist Stephanie Correia "Emerging"

On the Occasion of the Retrospective Exhibition 60 Years of Women Artists in Guyana

**April 7th — 30th, 1988
at the Umana Yana, Georgetown**

Wendy, the visit was an opportunity to meet a number of artists, scholars and museum professionals - who had hitherto been only names.

The exhibition was a massive achievement. The research was extensive, the curating and editing inspired. The fruit of 18 months unremitting effort by Nesha Hannif and the Guyana Women Artists' Association, it was all the more poignant for having been realized against the tragic backdrop of Guyana's history. The artists overcome not only the divisive obstacles of differing ages, cultures and social-political alignment, but also the staggering economic barriers that Guyana's inflation has created.

The handsome exhibition catalog, edited by Dr. Hanif, should be read by all those interested in the historical perspective of art throughout the Caribbean, as well as in Guyana. We are reminded that in the 20's and 30's, when Golde White was pioneering art in Guyana, there was much more freedom of movement amongst our Caribbean sisters and brothers.

The visit left us all with a renewed commitment to regionalism. (perhaps reinforced by the farcical logistics of out getting into and out of Guyana, but that is another story).

Although, as one of our hosts put it, "it is such an unending daily battle to live with integrity and meaning", the creativity and warmth of the Guyanese people made the visit one which will not be forgotten.

NEW MEMBERS

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society is very pleased to welcome so many new members to our list. We are very much encouraged by your growing interest and involvement in the development of the Museum and for showing your support in this way.

Mr. Edwin Holder
Mrs. Anne Vandamme
Mr. Robert Vaughan
Mrs. Nancy Yaeger
Mr. Michael Yearwood
Mr. & Mrs. David Barnard

Ms. Maureen Blenman
Mrs. Ellice Collymore
Mrs. Jean Cope
Miss Mona Edwards
Mr. Larry Gragg
Professor Mercia Grassi
Major John Michael Hartland

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE MUSEUM

Explore your cultural heritage and make new friends this summer, in our program of enjoyable, leisure-learning activities. Fun for all ages and stages.

1. Volunteers John and Alice Lamoureaux have organised another CHILDRENS NATURE SERIES for 15 eight to twelve year olds. Ideally timed to follow the opening of the new Natural History Exhibition, this program offers children craft and discussion activities to help them understand and enjoy their environment.

2. OUR LIVING HERITAGE will be explored on the move with popular geographer Jeanette Ottley. Emphasis will be on revealing the varied ecosystems of Barbados' reef, swamps, beaches and vegetation, and fostering an appreciation of their fragility. Fee includes hired transport and possibly glass bottom boat. Wear comfortable walking clothes and bring your own picnic.

3. What could be better summer fare than iced lime squash, a hammock and a good book? Jeanette Springer will lead a reading-for-pleasure INTRODUCTION TO BARBADIAN WRITING. No background needed; this is aimed at the general reader, who will discover the large contribution our little island has made to Caribbean literature.

4. THE MUSEUM AS A DESIGN RESOURCE. Artist Joselyn Gardner will introduce participants to the decorative richness of the museum's collections, and suggest techniques through which they will become resources for the participant's own artistic growth. Ideal for 5th and 6th form pupils and interested amateurs.

5. AUTUMN LEAVES IN SUMMER introduces retired people to the Museum in a leisurely and sociable format. The three sessions include a field trip, a tour of the new Natural History Gallery and an "antiques" morning. Light refreshments provided.

REGISTRATION IS ON A FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED BASIS. Mail attached form with cheque or register at the museum office from July 1. Avoid disappointment; these places fill quickly.

NAME-----

ADDRESS-----

PHONE-----

1 CHILDRENS NATURE SERIES

July 18-22 9:30-11:30 limit 15 children \$25

Child's name-----

Age-----

2 OUR LIVING HERITAGE

July 26, 28, August 2 and 4 9:00-1:00 limit 14 \$50

Students and seniors \$25

Individual field trips \$15

3 INTRODUCTION TO BARBADIAN WRITING

July 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28. 10:00-12:00 limit 15 \$25

4 THE MUSEUM AS DESIGN RESOURCE

July 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29. 1:00-3:00 limit 10 \$35

5 AUTUMN LEAVES IN SUMMER

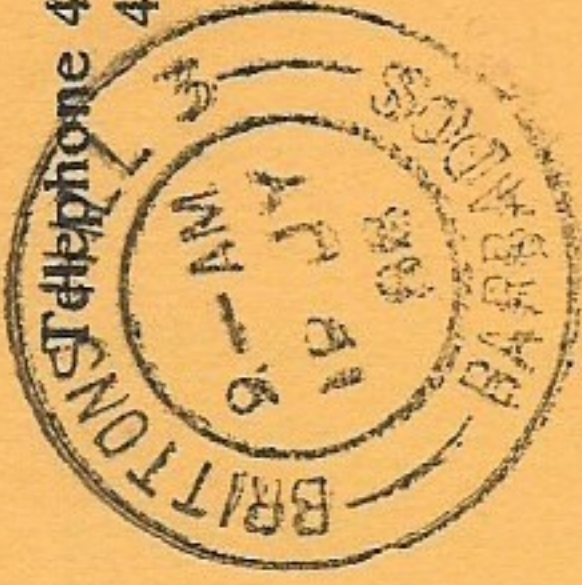
August 3, 10, 17. 10:00-12:00 limit 20 for field trip \$25

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ST. ANN'S GARRISON, BARBADOS, W.I.

ON SERVICE

Telephone 427-0201
436-1956



MUSEUM CALENDER

Museum Staff Hours

8.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Open for visitors

Monday - Saturday

9.00 - 6.00 p.m.

Museum Closed

Aug. 1 - Bank Holiday

Meetings

Philatelic Society Meeting

Every 2nd Wed. 7.30 p.m.

Archaeological Society

Meeting

Every 3rd Wed. 7.30 p.m.

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE MUSEUM

Childrens Nature Series

July 18-22, 9.30 - 11.30

Our Living Heritage

July 26, 28,

August 2 and 4

Introduction to Barbados

Writing.

July 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

10.00 - 12.00

The Museum as Design Resource

July 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29

1.00 - 3.00

Autumn Leaves in Summer

August 3, 10, 17

10.00 - 12.00

